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State Agricultural Development Board Approves \$4,000 for Allen County Beekeepers Association from County Agricultural Development Funds

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, chaired by Governor Paul Patton, voted today to approve a \$4,000 grant to support the efforts of the Allen County Beekeepers Association to raise honey bees and increase the population of threatened queen bees in Kentucky. This application was reviewed by the Allen County Agricultural Development Council and forwarded to the state board as a high priority item. The funds come from the approximately \$450,000 set aside for Allen County in the Agricultural Development Fund established with half of Kentucky's tobacco settlement proceeds.

Governor Patton praised the Board's action to boost the efforts of Allen County farmers. The beekeepers will use the money to purchase bee keeping material, bees, queens, hives, honey extracting equipment and artificial grafting equipment. The project is intended to increase bee population to improve crop pollination and create a new direct market product.

"This action means that the farmers in Allen County will benefit from the efforts of the Beekeepers through better pollination of their crops, and beekeepers will begin developing a value-added product for direct marketing. This is an investment in the future of Kentucky agriculture, the future of our rural communities, and in diversification efforts in one of our state's most progressive agricultural counties," said Governor Paul Patton.

The award was made as one of 23 approved by the Board during its meeting today. The Board approved a total of \$593,423 in state level projects, and \$1,265,877 in a variety of county-level programs, including the Allen County project.